

Claims

Having thus described our invention, what is claimed is:

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1. An apparatus for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session comprising:
 signal monitoring component for detecting the strength of the communication signal; and
 comparator component for comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference and for generating a initiation signal to initiate said search.
 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication session is wireless.
 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication session is an ad hoc communication network session.
 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication session is a multi-hop wireless communication session.
 5. An apparatus for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session comprising:
 interference detection component for detecting the intensity of interference in the session; and
 comparator component for comparing the intensity of interference to a predetermined reference and for generating

an initiation signal to initiate said search.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the communication session is wireless.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the communication session is an ad hoc communication network session.

8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the communication session is a multi-hop wireless communication session.

9. An apparatus for altering the frequency at which monitoring for radio stations are performed during a communication session comprising:

signal monitoring component for detecting the strength of the communication signal; and

comparator component for comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference and for generating a signal to alter the frequency of said monitoring.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the communication session is a wireless communication session.

11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the communication session is an ad hoc communication network session.

12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the communication session is a multi-hop wireless communication session.

13. A method for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session comprising the steps of:

detecting the strength of the communication signal;
comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference; and
generating a initiation signal to initiate said search.

14. A method for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session comprising the steps of:

detecting the intensity of interference in the session;
comparing the intensity of interference to a predetermined reference; and
generating an initiation signal to initiate said search.

15. A method for altering the frequency at which monitoring for radio stations is performed during a communication session comprising the steps of:

detecting the strength of the communication signal; and
comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference; and
generating a signal to alter the frequency of said monitoring.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said altering comprising increasing frequency of monitoring to search for radio stations when the signal strength is less than a

predetermined reference and decreasing the frequency when the signal strength exceeds the predetermined reference.

17. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting the strength of the communication signal;
comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference; and
generating a initiation signal to initiate said search.

18. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting the intensity of interference in the session;
comparing the intensity of interference to a predetermined reference; and
generating an initiation signal to initiate said search.

19. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for altering the frequency at which monitoring for radio stations is performed during a

communication session, said method comprising the steps of:
detecting the strength of the communication signal; and
comparing the detected strength of the signal to a
predetermined reference; and
generating a signal to alter the frequency of said
monitoring.

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